

20 Feb 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to offer you our experience with Art From Ashes Inc. Over the last four years we have had Art From Ashes at our school as part of our Lifeskills program. The experience we have had with them is priceless. The reason I say it is priceless is that I do not believe one can put a price tag on a young person's life being transformed. With the inclusion of Art From Ashes in our Lifeskills program we have seen our mission of transforming "youth at risk" to "youth of promise" come to life. Watching our youth interact with the Art From Ashes facilitators is energizing. Often the young person who seems quiet and shy will explode out of their shell when they experience the magic that Art From Ashes brings into all they do. We see young people get in touch with feelings, emotions, their peers, and with themselves. There is a moment that one can see the actual shift from "youth at risk" to "youth of promise" and Art From Ashes brings about that shift with brilliance and strength. The only way I know how to thank them each year they participate in our Lifeskills program is to showcase our youth's talent, energy, learning and healing through our annual Poetry Jam. At the Poetry Jam we have moving performances from almost all our youth and Art From Ashes helps make that possible through the tremendous work they do with the youth they come into contact with. If anyone is thinking of bringing Art From Ashes into their organization all I have to say is if you do not, you will be denying a young person the chance to grow, experience the power of poetry, and most of all, the chance to transform their life.

Sincerely,

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